

REMARKS

Claims 18-103 are pending in the present application. Based on the above amendments, claims 1-17 have been canceled, and new claims 18-103 have been added. The new claims are fully supported throughout the Specification.¹

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application.

I. Claims 1-6 and 8-17 Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-6 and 8-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,522,880 to Verma et al. (hereinafter, “Verma”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As noted above, claims 1-6 and 8-17 have been canceled. Thus, this rejection is moot.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-6 and 8-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Verma.

II. Claim 7 Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Verma in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,313,371 to Gibbs (hereinafter, “Gibbs”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As noted above, claim 7 has been canceled. Thus, this rejection is moot.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Verma in view of Gibbs.

III. New Claims

Applicants have added new claims 18-103 to recite subject matter to which they are entitled. As noted above, these claims are fully supported throughout the Specification. Additionally, claims 18-103 are allowable over any combination of the cited prior art.

For example, referring to independent claims 18, 37-40, 59 and 80-83, none of the cited prior art disclose or suggest an apparatus or method for transferring data in a communication system that includes, at least, a number of a plurality of tunnels established between a network

¹ See, e.g., Specification, paragraphs 0022-0027, 0037-0050, and 0062-0066.

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access node and a RAN node, where the number of the plurality of tunnels is independent of a number of air-interface links between the RAN node and the respective mobile node.

Furthermore, none of the cited prior art further disclose or suggest that each of the plurality of tunnels corresponds to a respective data packet treatment corresponding to a respective one of a plurality of data packets received by the network access node.

In a departure from the recited subject matter, Verma discloses a one-to-one relationship between tunnels, established between the tunnel initiator and the tunnel endpoint, and registration requests from the mobile node.² Furthermore, Verma is silent with respect to the recited subject matter of each of the plurality of tunnels corresponds to a respective data packet treatment corresponding to a respective one of a plurality of data packets received by the network access node.

Further, Gibbs fails to address the above-noted failures of Verma. Thus, claims 18, 37-40, 59 and 80-83 are also non-obvious and patentably distinguishable over the cited prior art references.³

Additionally, dependent claims 19-36, 41-58, 60-79 and 84-103 are patentable for at least the same reasons, and each dependent claim separately recites subject matter not disclosed or suggested by any combination of the cited prior art.

Therefore, based on the above remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to allow claims 18-103.

² See, e.g. Verma, Figs. 1, 2, 4 and 6.

³ MPEP 2143.03.

IV. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. If there are any remaining issues preventing allowance of the pending claims that may be clarified by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

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